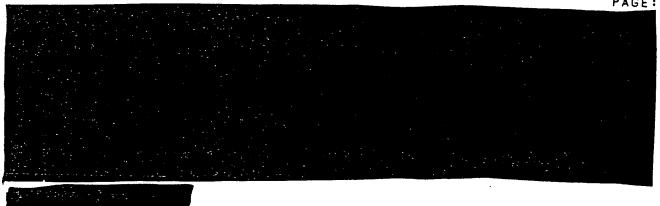
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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 1993.

FOR 21 JANUARY

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2.

I. HAITI: REGIME MAY SLOW NEGOTIATIONS



ALTHOUGH DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER BAZIN AND SENIOR HAITIAN MILITARY LEADERS HAVE ACCEPTED A FRAMEWORK FOR UN/OAS-LED NEGOTIATIONS, THE MUTINY YESTERDAY OF A SMALL GROUP OF TROOPS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL REINFORCE THEIR DETERMINATION TO PROCEED SLOWLY.

THE ARMY'S HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY YESTERDAY PUT DOWN AN UPRISING BY A HANDFUL OF ENLISTED SOLDIERS FROM THE 20TH COMPANY IN PORT-AU-PRINCE AFTER A SHORT GUN BATTLE; NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED. THE MUTINEERS, WHO OPPOSE THE RETURN OF OUSTED PRESIDENT ARISTIDE, APPARENTLY WERE PROTESTING AN ORDER FROM THE HIGH COMMAND THAT HOULD HAVE TRANSFERRED AGITATORS TO REMOTE POSTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

ALTHOUGH ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS CLAIMS THE MUTINY WAS AN ISOLATED EVENT, THE GENERAL STAFF IS CONCERNED THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD HELP RIGHTISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO AROUSE FEARS AMONG THE RANK AND FILE ABOUT ARISTIDE'S RETURN. IN AN EFFORT TO ASSUAGE THE CONCERNS OF THE TROOPS, MILITARY LEADERS ALREADY HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE NOT SIGNED ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE UN AND WILL NOT DO SO.

BAZIN APPARENTLY IS NOT PREPARED TO STEP DOWN AS A PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT, HIS DECISION TO HOLD AN ELECTION FOR THE SENATE ON MONDAY, DESPITE THE REQUEST BY UN/OAS SPECIAL ENVOY CAPUTO THAT IT BE CANCELED, WAS AIMED AT ENSURING HIM A STRONG

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VOICE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS; THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE

DOMINATED BY HIS SUPPORTERS, MUST APPROVE KEY ELEMENTS OF ANY

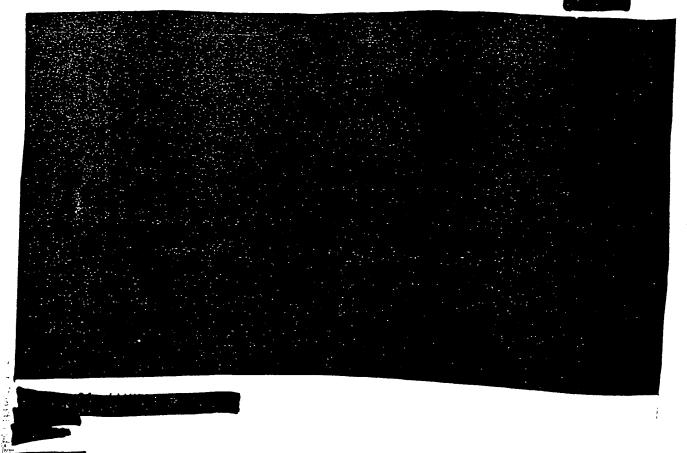
SETTLEMENT.

BAZIN HAS REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR

GENERAL CEDRAS, WHOM ARISTIDE WANTS TO REMOVE, AS WELL AS FOR A

GENERAL AMNESTY FOR THE MILITARY.

ALTHOUGH THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF THE HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY, WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE OUSTER OF ARISTIDE IN 1991, SUGGESTS THAT CEDRAS STILL HAS THE LOYALTY OF THIS KEY UNIT, UNREST AMONG THE RANK AND FILE WILL GROW AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS CONTINUES.



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TOPPOST